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Summary record of the 31st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 May 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wairatpanij (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Thailand)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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In the absence of Mr. Maurer (Switzerland), Ms. Wairatpanij (Thailand), Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 146: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/64/326 (Part II), A/64/633, A/64/643, A/64/660 and A/64/669; A/C.5/64/17)

1. **Mr. Sugiyama** (Japan) said that the Committee's consideration of cross-cutting issues should take account of the fact that the surge in peacekeeping over the last decade had now levelled off. While Member States should be ready to provide adequate resources and capacity for peacekeeping operations, to which his delegation attached great importance, the need for efficient, effective and accountable management of operations could not be overemphasized at a time when countries, including his own, were in a difficult financial situation. Experience also showed that the absence of adequate management often hindered the effective implementation of operations. It was therefore important to reach agreement on a resolution on cross-cutting issues at the current session, in order to provide the Secretary-General with clear guidance on enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in the management of peacekeeping operations; the absence of such a resolution at the previous two sessions was regrettable.

2. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General should report on the impact of recent initiatives and reforms related to peacekeeping operations, since it was important to have a comprehensive and clear picture of major managerial changes when considering the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping operations. The implementation of information and communications technology/enterprise resource planning projects in connection with General Assembly resolution 64/243, for example, had greater implications for peacekeeping budgets than for the programme budget of the Organization.

3. With regard to issues related to civilian personnel, his delegation wished to know how the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/250, to be discussed at the Assembly's sixty-fifth session, affected budget proposals. It also wished to understand, and explore possible measures for addressing, the root causes of high vacancy and turnover rates. It saw merit in taking measures to support a minimum period of assignment and was interested in knowing the views of the Secretary-General in that regard. It also considered that posts and positions vacant for more than one year were non-essential or unnecessary; they should therefore be reviewed and abolished as required.

4. Careful consideration should be given to operational requirements in such areas as air transportation, information and communications technology, fuel management and rations. While the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance cost-effectiveness through the use of a regional approach, shared assets, turnkey arrangements and systems contracts were commendable, his delegation wished to assess the comparative advantages of those measures. If convinced of their merits, it would like to explore the possibility of applying them to other missions.

5. Lastly, his delegation supported in principle the objectives of the global field support strategy, provided that the resources devoted to the support function were reported transparently and in full, regardless of location, and that the problems currently encountered, in the management of strategic deployment stocks, for example, were addressed and resolved by means of the strategy. As the initiative would have a significant impact on organizational structures, lines of accountability, working methods, processes and procedures, his delegation would also seek clarification in informal consultations on the concrete gains that could be obtained from the strategy in terms of its core objectives.

6. **Mr. Ren** Yisheng (China) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations, which were an effective instrument for maintaining international peace and security, should be guaranteed adequate resources. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would abide by all relevant rules and regulations in utilizing peacekeeping resources and increase the efficiency of such utilization. Bearing in mind the sharp increase in the overall peacekeeping budget and in the total number of peacekeeping personnel over recent years, Member States needed to consider and address the dichotomy between the continuous growth in peacekeeping demands and the inadequacy of United Nations peacekeeping capacities in order to ensure the

sustainability of the Organization's peacekeeping operations.

7. The effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations peacekeeping operations could be improved by finding appropriate solutions to cross-cutting issues in such areas as finance, budgets, logistics, human resources management, conduct and discipline. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat could take effective measures to improve budget procedures and implementation and enhance the accountability of programme managers. Reforms were needed, including in relation to contractual arrangements, to address the root causes of high vacancy rates and improve geographical representation. Efforts should also be made to further improve procurement procedures and provide more opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

8. Having studied the report of the Secretary-General on the global field support strategy (A/64/633), his delegation welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to improve working procedures and explore effective logistical support methods, since appropriate improvements in the logistics mechanism would help to expedite peacekeeping deployment. However, in view of the different views and questions presented in relation to the reform package, it was to be hoped that, following extensive consultation with Member States, the Secretariat would further improve its internal communication and coordination and progressively implement the reform plan for the logistical support of peacekeeping operations.

9. His delegation stood ready to work with all parties to improve administrative and budgetary measures relating to peacekeeping operations; prevent problems in the areas of management and discipline; and ensure the efficient use of peacekeeping resources, with a view to strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations, at a time when they were facing unprecedented challenges.

10. **Mr. Rugunda** (Uganda) said that it was clear from previous discussions on the global field support strategy that the proposals would have a far-reaching impact on the operational aspects of field support activities, representing a major shift from current practice. It was also clear that there were divergent views on how to move forward. While the Secretariat's approach was to seek legislative approval for the strategy before designing and implementing specific processes, some Member States had expected to receive a detailed outline before the approval stage. Prior discussions with the Department of Field Support and the explanations provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support had enabled Member States to better understand the strategy and had addressed some initial concerns. Further clarification of other key issues that concerned Member States, especially troop- and police-contributing countries, should be provided in informal consultations.

11. Bearing in mind that the General Assembly had acknowledged the cost-effectiveness of the logistics hub at Entebbe and had expressed support for its expansion, his delegation welcomed and supported the proposal to establish the first regional service centre there. It would, however, be seeking further clarification of a number of matters, including efforts to enhance the development of regional and local economies, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/633), and the fact that, according to the Advisory Committee's report (A/64/660), the proposed Entebbe regional service centre would not have a role in logistics, supply chain or warehousing functions, except for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.